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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/822,499	04/12/2004	Christopher C. McConnell	MSFT-3513	3038

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EXAMINER

KHOSHNOODI, FARIBORZ

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2168

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/05/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/822,499

Applicant(s)

MCCONNELL, CHRISTOPHER C.

Examiner

Fariborz Khoshnoodi

Art Unit

2168

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 February 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

Remarks

1. Applicant's arguments/ amendments with respect to amended claims 1, 9, and 22 previously presented claims 1-26 filed February 16, 2007.
2. Amendments made with regards to the 35 USC 101 claims rejections have been considered. Therefore, previous rejections with regards to 35 USC 101 claims rejections have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office Action:

A person shall be entitled to patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being fully anticipated by
McConnell et al. United States Patent No. 6,993,475 B1.

As per claims 1 and 9:

McConnell et al. teach a system/method comprising: **a program module executing on a computer that receives inputs and generates from the received inputs a collection of ranked interpretations, comprising a set of fragments of data types structurally compatible to data types in the received inputs, wherein a fragment of the set of compatible fragments is**

Art Unit: 2168

generated by analyzing a grammatical structure of one or more of the inputs at a linguistic level, such that a token not present in the received inputs may be included in the fragment based on matching words and comparing grammatical structures (column 19 lines 66-67, column 20 lines 1-14 and column 41 lines 38-42) ; and performing an action in response to at least one of the plurality of ranked interpretations (column 41 lines 61-64).

As per claim 2:

McConnell et al. teach a system/method, **wherein the inputs comprise a natural language request** (column 20 lines 13-14 and Abstract lines 11-12).

As per claims 3 and 12:

McConnell et al. teach a system/method, **wherein the inputs comprise a filter** (column 19 lines 43-54).

As per claims 4 and 13:

McConnell et al. teach a system/method, **wherein the inputs comprise a bias** (column 1 lines 53-60).

As per claims 5 and 14:

McConnell et al. teach a system/method, **wherein the inputs comprise a culture** (column 9 lines 59-67).

Art Unit: 2168

As per claim 6:

McConnell et al. teach a system/method, **wherein the inputs comprise a schema for data to be operated upon** (column 11 lines 8-11).

As per claim 7:

McConnell et al. teach a system/method, **further comprising a module for connecting to a plurality of search providers** (column 1 lines 64-66).

As per claim 8:

McConnell et al. teach a system/method, **wherein the module for connecting to the plurality of search providers receives search results from the plurality of search providers** (column 1 lines 50-60).

As per claim 10:

McConnell et al. teach a system/method, **wherein the action comprises performing a search** (column 28 lines 65-67 and column 29 lines 1-2).

As per claim 11:

McConnell et al. teach a system/method, **wherein the action comprises executing a command represented by the at least one of the plurality of ranked interpretations** (column 42 lines 42-50).

Art Unit: 2168

As per claim 15:

The method of claim 9, **wherein the at least one input comprises a schema for data upon which the action will be taken** (column 11 lines 8-11).

As per claim 16:

McConnell et al. teach a system/method comprises: **analyzing the natural language request to determine a plurality of relevant terms** (column 9 lines 45-48), **associating each of the plurality of relevant terms with at least one structure of a plurality of structures in a schema associated with data upon which the action will be taken** (column 9 lines 59-67); **combining terms associated with the at least one structure to generate at least one interpretation of the plurality of interpretations** (column 27 lines 31-37); **and assigning a rank to the at least one interpretation** (column 42 lines 42-45).

As per claim 17:

McConnell et al. teach a system/method, **further comprising sending at least one of the plurality of ranked interpretations to at least one of a plurality of search providers** (column 1 lines 50-60).

As per claim 18:

McConnell et al. teach a system/method, **further comprising receiving a collection of search results from at least one of a plurality of search providers** (column 1 lines 66-67 and column 2 lines 1-5).

Art Unit: 2168

As per claim 19:

McConnell et al. teach a system/method, **further comprising receiving a set of parameters** (column 10 lines 53-55).

As per claim 20:

McConnell et al. teach a system/method, **wherein the set of parameters comprises an expansion policy** (column 16 line 29).

As per claim 21:

McConnell et al. teach a system/method, **wherein the set of parameters comprises an interpretation generation policy** (column 27 lines 28-37).

As per claim 22:

McConnell et al. teach a computer-readable medium comprising **computer-executable instructions for in response to receiving a natural language request** (column 14 lines 13-16 and Abstract lines 11-12); **analyzing the natural language request** by analyzing a grammatical structure of the natural language request at a linguistic level to determine a plurality of relevant terms, wherein the plurality of relevant terms are not limited to those present in the natural language request (column 10 lines 36-43); **associating each of the plurality of relevant terms with a structure in a schema associated with data upon which an action will be taken** such that the data is structurally compatible to data in the natural language request; (column 9 lines 59-67); **combining terms associated with the structure to generate at least one interpretation of the**

Art Unit: 2168

natural language request based on matching words and comparing grammatical structures: (column 42 lines 42-45); assigning a rank to the at least one interpretation (column 42 lines 42-45); and performing an action in response to the at least one interpretation (column 27 lines 29-31).

As per claim 23:

McConnell et al. teach a system/method, **comprising further computer-executable instructions for performing a search** (column 28 lines 65-67 and column 29 lines 1-2).

As per claim 24:

McConnell et al. teach a system/method, **comprising further computer-executable instructions for executing a command represented by the at least one interpretation** (column 32 lines 3-6).

As per claim 25:

McConnell et al. teach a system/method, **comprising further computer-executable instructions for connecting to a plurality of search providers** (column 14 lines 48-59).

As per claim 26:

McConnell et al. teach a system/method, **comprising further computer-executable instructions for displaying search results** (column 14 lines 42-47).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant contends that the claims are in condition for allowance because McConnell et al. do not teach all of the limitations. Examiner respectfully disagrees with applicant and request applicant to look at the detail 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejections in this office action. The Examiner would like to point out that this action is made final (See MPEP 706.07a).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fariborz Khoshnoodi whose telephone number is 571-270-1005. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th every other F 8:00-4:00..

Art Unit: 2168

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Vo can be reached on 571-272-3642. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

FK



Fariborz Khoshnoodi
Examiner
Art Unit 2168



TIM VO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100